

nondiscrimination, that in today's military it truly is one's skills, talents, ability, and merit that allows men and women of any color, race, or creed to advance to the highest levels of leadership. That is exactly how it should be.

I would also echo the gentleman from California's comments with respect to the importance of title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the continued good work done by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the hundreds and thousands of employers and businesses in this country who have worked to ensure that the workplace of 2007 is free from discrimination on any racial or any other grounds.

Today, as our military looks forward and continues to prepare itself for the challenge of the 21st century and beyond, we pause for a moment to look back and remember some of those who took brave first steps. The Mare Island Original 21ers are among those courageous men, and it is proper that Congress today should pause to commemorate their efforts.

□ 1530

I thank the gentleman from California for his leadership and initiative on this issue.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for his comments and appreciate his support for this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), a member of the committee.

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me commend the gentleman from California, chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, for bringing forth this very important resolution dealing with the equal employment opportunities in the military.

I think that it is great that we are finally recognizing these 21 brave men who had the courage to stand up and say that enough is enough. In many instances, workers are intimidated by the surroundings, by worrying about their positions, worrying about having action taken against them; and so it is always great when people decide it is time to step forward and do the right thing.

Dr. King said, in his march on Washington that there was a promissory note that was sent out by America to the, at that time, the Negroes, and that the check came back, the promissory note, marked "insufficient funds." And this was a part of the insufficient funds, people willing to work, but being denied. As a matter of fact, when World War II began, that infamous December 7 surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, our country was caught off guard; we did not have the build-up, the military wherewithal, we did not have the weapons, we did not have the ships, we did not have the tanks.

And there then became a move to try to catch up to the enemy because they were preparing for war and we were not. However, blacks were not allowed to work in the factories that were producing or tried to catch up. It actually took President Roosevelt at that time to encourage U.S. businesses, even though they were short of manpower because the draft had come in, they would not hire blacks, even though it meant that we could not prepare and produce the equipment that we needed. And so sometimes racial discrimination really makes no sense at all.

I agree with the gentlemen from California and from Minnesota who said that there have been big changes, things are different now. I would like to once again thank the gentleman from California for bringing forth this resolution.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his support of this.

This naval shipyard, it has been closed and it is going through the re-used process, and it is a very, very exciting economic development plan for the city of Vallejo. It is in my district. And just down the way, down the river to San Francisco Bay is the Rosie the Riveter historic site. And at Rosie the Riveter, they talk about the various sites where we assembled the great American armada to carry supplies and troops to the Pacific during the Second World War.

In the town in which I was born, in Richmond, California, the Second World War and the Kaiser shipyards being located there overnight completed integrating the city. And of course we all know the story of women who went to work, women of all races went to work in those Kaiser shipyards; blacks went to work alongside white shipyard workers. Then they moved on, the shipyard, in peacetime at Mare Island, and that is where this discrimination took place.

Because of the actions of President Kennedy, because of the actions of people like the Mare Island 21ers and a lot of other brave people, today we look back at this as part of history in terms of workplace discrimination, certainly the Federal Government, one of the integrated workforces in the country. It is because of these kinds of actions that we can now speak of this, for the most part, as part of our historical past, but never losing sight of the sacrifice and the courage of ordinary people to move the dial toward integration from discrimination.

It wasn't easy in these communities; it wasn't easy in these workplaces. So when we see actions like this taken, I think it is quite fitting that the Congress would recognize this by passing this resolution commending the actions of courage of these 21 African American workers in the shipyard.

I thank my colleagues for support of this resolution. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for his words in support of this resolution. I would hope

that the House would adopt it unanimously.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 31.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

COMMENDING THE FLORIDA GATORS FOR WINNING THE NATIONAL COLLEGE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 39) commending the University of Florida Gators for their victory in the 2006 Bowl Championship Series (BCS) and for winning the national college football championship, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 39

Whereas, on January 8, 2007, the University of Florida Gators won the 2006 Bowl Championship Series national title with a stunning 41-14 defeat over the Ohio State University Buckeyes;

Whereas the University of Florida is one of the premier academic institutions in the State of Florida;

Whereas the University of Florida football program celebrated its 100th Anniversary this season;

Whereas the University of Florida Gators captured the South Eastern Conference (SEC) Championship title on December 2, 2006;

Whereas the University of Florida won the NCAA Championship title in basketball in April 2006;

Whereas the University of Florida is the first Division I school to hold the national championship title in both football and men's basketball concurrently;

Whereas Florida football Head Coach Urban Meyer is only the 7th coach to win a national championship in his first two seasons as a Division I college football coach;

Whereas senior quarterback Chris Leak was the Most Valuable Player of the BCS national championship game;

Whereas the Florida defense held Ohio State to only 82 yards of offense, the lowest ever for a BCS game;

Whereas the University of Florida student athletes are among the most talented in the Nation;

Whereas University of Florida fans worldwide supported and encouraged the Gators throughout the football season;

Whereas J. Bernard Machen, President of the University of Florida, and Athletic Director Jeremy N. Foley have shown great leadership in bringing success and glory to the University of Florida; and

Whereas the University of Florida students, faculty, alumni, and all Gator fans are deeply committed to bringing pride to the University of Florida and the entire State of Florida: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Florida Gators for their victory in the 2006 Bowl Championship Series and for winning the national college football championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and staff whose hard work and dedication helped the University of Florida Gators win the championship; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to University of Florida President J. Bernard Machen, football Head Coach Urban Meyer, and Athletic Director Jeremy N. Foley for appropriate display.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Let me begin by thanking my colleague, Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for introducing this resolution, and also to congratulate her and her fellow alumni for the Gators' win last week in the 2006 Bowl Championship Series.

A week ago Monday marked the University of Florida's second national football championship when they defeated Ohio State University Buckeyes. College football fans, student athletes and the general public were treated to an exciting national championship game, an end to the college football season.

I want to extend my congratulations to head coach Urban Meyer, athletic director Jeremy N. Foley, University of Florida president J. Bernard Machen, and Florida's student athletes for attaining the unprecedented achievement of holding concurrent Division I national championships in football and men's basketball.

I also want to extend my congratulations to the Ohio State University Buckeyes and their student athletes for a great season. Ohio State won all of their games during the regular season and produced the 2006 Heisman trophy winner, Troy Smith. Winning concurrent championships has brought national acclaim to the University of Florida, and I know the fans of the university will remember this very special moment for many years to come.

It takes a great deal to assemble a world-class football team. It takes dedication of the young men who are playing on the team. It takes support from the alumni. It takes patient and accomplished coaching. It takes support from the community. A winning

football team can bring an entire community together. It brings pride to the individuals on the team, but it brings joint pride to the community in general.

And so although many people say why is so much emphasis put on sports, I think that it is one of the tools that brings us together that has the esprit de corps that makes America great. As a former, simply, high school coach, I know the hard work and the time and effort and the sacrifice, really, that it takes for the players, that it takes for the coaches being away from their families, their children, away on weekends. It is a real sacrifice. And so I once again commend the university and once again say, to have the number one football and number one basketball team in the country in the same year is a great achievement.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 39, recognizing the achievements of the University of Florida Gators. Last week, the University of Florida won the Division I-A college football national championship with a decisive 41-14 victory over the Ohio State Buckeyes.

As a Floridian, I am very honored to be recognizing the Gators' accomplishments, and I would be remiss if I did not offer my condolences to our distinguished minority leader, Mr. BOEHNER, and to my former colleague on the Education Committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI).

The University of Florida's victory in the BCS championship game capped a remarkable 13-1 season and win of the Southeastern Conference Championship. This national championship is the Gators' second, with their first occurring a decade ago in 1996. The University of Florida also won the 2006 NCAA Division I men's college basketball national championship. Florida is the first university to hold both of these titles at the same time.

I hold up the cover of Sports Illustrated this week showing our MVP, Chris Leak, quarterback of the Florida Gators with the title "Gator Raid." It points out that there was history in Gainesville with the first simultaneously men's basketball and football titles in 1 year. There is a lot of pride all of us have from the State of Florida, understandably.

In addition to these athletic achievements, the University of Florida is consistently recognized as one of the country's best public universities. I would like to extend recognition to Dr. Bernard Machen, president of the University of Florida; Mr. Jeremy Foley, the athletic director; head football coach Urban Meyer; and the many other members of the university community that contribute to the institution's academic and athletic excellence.

I also extend my congratulations to the University of Florida, in particular its football team, for this latest national championship, and also to the University of Florida fans worldwide who have supported the Gators, the good times and bad.

I thank my colleague from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for bringing this resolution forward. I also want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS), who represents the University of Florida.

I urge all of my colleagues to join us in recognizing this achievement and supporting House Resolution 39.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. I appreciate the gentleman's support for this resolution.

Madam Speaker, as we indicated, the unique victory in that very important game tied in with the fact that their men's basketball team exceeded themselves in the Final Four and won the championship game of the NCAA college men's basketball, combined with this outstanding effort for the football team shows that the University of Florida, in addition to having great academic programs, preparing young Americans for the future, dealing with the current challenges to keep America strong, to keep America on the cutting edge, to keep America ahead for technology and for other technological advances, we really are very pleased that this university stands head and shoulders.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS), who represents the University of Florida.

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. I thank my distinguished colleague from Florida. My colleagues, I also rise to praise the University of Florida, the Gators, for not only winning their second football national title but on their many off-the-field accomplishments as well.

With their 41-14 victory over the Ohio State Buckeyes, as mentioned earlier, the Gators became the first Division I school to hold a national championship in men's basketball and football at the same time.

Coming into this game, many of the experts did not give the Gators any chance of defeating the previously undefeated Buckeyes. However, once they took the field, the Gators were not intimidated. In fact, the Gators held their own and held Ohio State to only 82 yards of total offense, the fewest number of yards in BCS history.

Notwithstanding this event, as my colleague on the other side mentioned, Ohio State had a very great season; and I congratulate and commend this wonderful football team and its coach

and all its players for a very successful season.

My colleagues, the Florida Gators are excellent representatives of both the university and I believe the great State of Florida in their tenacity, spirit, and their willingness to try to succeed. I take great pride in representing the University of Florida and congratulate Coach Urban Meyer and the entire university on this great accomplishment.

The university's accomplishments extend beyond the field or on the courts in the sports arena. UF boasts a 91 percent graduation rate among its athletes, including all of its sports, making it only one of four programs in the National All-Sports Top 10 to achieve a graduation success rates that is above 90 percent. Furthermore, in 2002–2003, UF placed a record 193 student athletes on the SEC academic honor roll, marking six consecutive years UF placed 100 or more UF student athletes on the SEC Honor Roll.

The University of Florida's accomplishments go well beyond athletics. It is ranked fifth among Kiplinger's Top 10 Public Colleges. UF's faculty are among the best and most decorated in the world, winning awards such as the Fields Medal, two Pulitzer Prizes, NASA's top award for research, and the Smithsonian Institution's conservation award.

University of Florida is also the first university in the world to be designated a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary for its agriculture faculty's commitment to environmental and wildlife management.

Enrolling almost 50,000 students annually, UF is home to 16 colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes. During the 2005–2006 school year, UF was awarded \$519 million in sponsored research. This research includes diverse areas such as health care and citrus production, including the world's largest citrus research center.

My colleagues, one example of this innovative research is veterinarian Julie Levy, who is one of the worldwide leaders of research into a revolutionary, humane drug option for spraying and neutering cats and dogs. As it is now, the only way to permanently sterilized these animals is surgically. What if this process were as simple as a vaccine? Dr. Levy, at the University of Florida, is working on this research project today.

On both the field and in the classroom, the students, faculty, and administration of the University of Florida are champions. I am honored that this world-class university is in my congressional district and I look forward to many great things in the future.

As they say at the university, Go Gators!

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolu-

tion 39, to congratulate the University of Florida football team on winning the 2006 national championship.

As a University of Florida graduate born in Gator country, that is Gainesville, Florida, I could not be happier with the outcome of the championship game.

Very few people believed the Gators deserved to beat Ohio State or to get in the championship game, let alone beating Ohio State, a great team. But the SEC did beat the Big 10. They certainly proved the critics wrong.

I also would like to congratulate the University of Florida for becoming the first institution in Division I history to hold both the NCAA men's basketball championship and the football championship simultaneously. And, who knows, there may be another basketball championship in the waning. Right now we are number one.

This achievement, of course, is very historic. Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating a great coach, Urban Meyer, and the fine young men from the University of Florida. And congratulations to Gators everywhere. It is great to be a Florida Gator. Go Gators!

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I will close by saying that after the winning the national championship in football and basketball, the baseball team has to be feeling some pressure right now down in Gainesville.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H. Res. 39.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I would thank all of the speakers who participated. I think it is really a great achievement, and I want to commend the sponsor of this resolution, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for her outstanding leadership and how much she has done to support that great athletic institution. I would wish the Gators success in the future as they have done in the past.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days to insert materials relevant to H. Res. 39, and the previous bill, H. Con. Res. 31.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 39, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

COMMENDING THE BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY BRONCOS FOR WINNING THE 2007 FIESTA BOWL AND COMPLETING AN UNDEFEATED SEASON

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 43) commending the Boise State University Broncos football team for winning the 2007 Fiesta Bowl and completing an undefeated season.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 43

Whereas the Boise State University Broncos football team won the 2007 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, defeating the University of Oklahoma Sooners by a score of 43–42 at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, on January 1, 2007;

Whereas the Broncos have won the last 5 consecutive Western Athletic Conference football championships;

Whereas the Broncos are the Nation's top scoring Division 1-A collegiate football team for the last 7 seasons, with an average of over 42 points per game;

Whereas the Broncos are the Nation's 4th winningest Division 1-A collegiate football team for the last 7 seasons, with a record of 75–13 and winning percentage of over .850.

Whereas the 2007 Fiesta Bowl is widely considered one of the best games in the history of college football;

Whereas the Broncos are the only Division 1-A collegiate football team to complete the 2006–2007 season undefeated;

Whereas Broncos head coach Chris Peterson called some of the most creative and courageous offensive plays in bowl-game history, including the game-saving "hook-and-lateral", game-extending "tailback pass", and game-winning "Statue of Liberty";

Whereas the Broncos are 5–2 in Division 1-A collegiate post-season games;

Whereas Broncos quarterback Jared Zabransky was named the Offensive Most Valuable Player of the Fiesta Bowl;

Whereas Jared Zabransky threw for 3 touchdowns and 262 yards in the Fiesta Bowl and completed his college career with a record of 33–5 as a starting quarterback;

Whereas Broncos defensive back Marty Tadman was named the Defensive Most Valuable Player of the Fiesta Bowl;

Whereas Marty Tadman intercepted 2 Sooner passes, including one returned for a touchdown, and had 5 tackles in the Fiesta Bowl;

Whereas Broncos running back Ian Johnson, one of the Nation's most exciting running backs, gained 101 rushing yards, scored 1 touchdown, and scored the game-winning 2-point conversion in overtime of the Fiesta Bowl;

Whereas the entire Broncos team should be commended for its determination, work ethic, attitude, and heart;

Whereas the Broncos are deserving of an opportunity to play for the National Championship;

Whereas the Broncos are building an impressive legacy of excellence in its football program; and

Whereas the Broncos have brought great honor to themselves, their university, the